

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2023- 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823
www.bellefonte.net

I. CALL TO ORDER

The November 6, 2023 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (followed by a moment of silence)

III. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kent Bernier
Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Deborah Cleeton
Ms. Barbara Dann
Mr. Douglas Johnson
Ms. Shawna McKean (Excused)
Ms. Rita Purnell
Ms. Johanna Sedgwick
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Mayor Buddy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Mr. Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Ms. Gina Thompson, HARB Administrator
Ms. Julie Brooks, Assistant Superintendent Public Works
Mr. Shawn Weaver, Chief of Police

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

V. PUBLIC COMMENT - Agenda and Non-Agenda/General Items and Comments

Peter Seraphine, a resident of E. High Street spoke regarding the addition of an off-leash dog park to the Borough.

Jerome Kinney, a resident of Elm Street spoke regarding the ongoing issue at the residence at Pine Circle in Parkview. The resident noted that there is still no fence surrounding the property which the resident feels is a significant safety issue.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Bellefonte Borough Council is invited to attend CentreCare Celebrating 10 years as a nonprofit on Thursday, November 9th from 1:00-3:00 pm. RSVP is requested. No council action is requested.

C-NET Membership dues increase for 2024. No council action is requested.

A comment was received on Bellefonte Waterfront Associates' request for Code Service options. No council action is requested.

Complaint of drug paraphernalia in the store windows along Allegheny Street. This complaint was forwarded to the police department's Chief of Police for review. No council action is needed.

Historic Bellefonte Inc. Requests for the Borough for Santa's House & Community Decorating Day, Saturday, November 18th, 2023.

Tosti-Vasey motioned and Brachbill seconded to approve providing staff to help with Decorating Day on Saturday, November 18th, 2023. Discussion included clarification that the public is invited. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	---
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	yay
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	yay	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (will be acted upon by a single motion unless otherwise noted)

Consent Agenda includes the following items:

1. General	Council Meeting Minutes October 16, 2023
2. Finance	Budget V. Actual September 2023
3. Finance	Budget V. Actual Summary September 2023
4. Finance	Stover McGlaughlin Invoice September 2023
5. Finance	Treasurer's Report September 2023
6. Finance	Voucher Summary September 2023

Tosti-Vasey requested to remove item 2 from the Consent Agenda.

Brachbill motioned and Dann seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion to approve the 5 remaining Consent Agenda items carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	---
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	yay
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	yay	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

Tosti-Vasey questioned line 497.000.000 in the Bulk Water Fund. She asked if the large deficit created in this fund from this line item would require a return of some of the shared funds from the Bellefonte Water Authority. As the answer was not available, Tosti-Vasey motioned and Dann seconded to table Consent Agenda item 2. No discussion. Roll Call Vote. Motion to table Consent Agenda item 2 carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	---
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	yay
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	yay	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor Johnson

Halloween night report. Mayor Johnson enjoyed celebrating Halloween in the community.

Police – Chief Weaver

NONE

Office of Community Affairs (OCA)/Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB)

1. Recommended for approval (Specific motions are stated in the OCA memo):

NONE

2. Administrative Approvals:

NONE

3. Items of interest:

The next HARB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. As of this evening, there are no projects to present, so this meeting might be canceled next week.

The Planning Commission will meet on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The meeting will be a review of the Elementary School Development Plan.

The Zoning Hearing Board had a meeting last week to hear 2 cases.

- One case was the determination meeting for 1304 Summit Drive. The Board voted unanimously to not allow this STR to operate on an unlimited basis throughout the calendar year. The STR at that location now has a maximum of 138 days per calendar year.
- The second case was a variance request for 131 N Thomas Street to divide the lot into 3 separate parcels. The request was granted.

IX. CURRENT and OLD BUSINESS

The Bellefonte EMS provided additional information in response to questions raised during the October 2nd, 2023 Budget Work Session. No council action is requested at this time.

Parkview Blvd and Zion Road Traffic Light. The Borough would like to get the PennDOT required traffic light at Parkview Blvd and Zion Road installed in 2024. Council originally approved the Agreement with our traffic signal engineer with the condition that the design phase not be started until more is known about changes at Airport and Zion Roads.

Cleeton motioned and Brachbill seconded to move to the design phase for the Traffic Light so that a signal can be installed in 2024. Discussion included Tosti-Vasey asking multiple questions regarding this project on how this move ahead might be impacted if the school's light at Zion and Airport Roads would result in us having additional costs to do a second installment. After several questions, Stewart indicated that should there be a change in the intersection (an unlikely probability at this point), the Borough would not incur additional cost.. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	---
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	yay
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	yay	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

Update on 1201 Pine Circle/Encroachment by the property owner – the 60-day timeline to remove the encroachment has expired with no activity. The property owner has hired an attorney who has been in contact with the Borough and Authority Solicitors. A conference call with the attorneys is being scheduled. No action is requested at this time.

Update on 3rd Party Commercial Inspectors meeting. Meetings were held with our current code services provider and the requester, Tom Songer of Bellefonte Waterfront Associates. Questions were asked as to the start date of the project on the Waterfront Development property. No start date was given. The committee may recommend other options when a start date is provided. No action is requested at this time.

Wood Street Stormwater Project. Work is underway and should be completed by mid-November. No council action is requested.

Parkview Heights Stormwater Project. Work is expected to begin in December. No council action is requested.

Property at Burrowes and Cowdrick with nuisance code violations. The Borough is working with the property owner who has some medical issues to resolve the issues. No council action required - this is an update on the situation.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Request John Nastase Construction Application and Certificate for Payment No. 2 for Spring Street Streetscape Project.

Brachbill motioned and Cleeton seconded to remit payment to John Nastase Construction for the Spring Street Streetscape Project Application No. 2. Roll Call Vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Kent Bernier	yay	Ms. Shawna McKean	---
Mr. Randy Brachbill	yay	Ms. Rita Purnell	yay
Ms. Deb Cleeton	yay	Ms. Johanna Sedgwick	yay
Ms. Barbara Dann	yay	Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey	yay
Mr. Doug Johnson	yay		

Nuisance Code Administrator Vacancy Update. The new administrator, Steven Barr, started this morning. No council action is requested.

Borough Offices will be closed on Friday, November 10th in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving. No council action is requested.

There will be no Brush/ Grass Pick-up on Wednesday, November 8th. The last day for Brush/ Grass Curbside pick-up will be Wednesday, November 15th. No council action is requested.

Musser Lane Compost Facility – Season closing for Saturday access/last Day open – November 18th. No action requested.

XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Members may offer comments regarding various events and issues within the Borough.

Mrs. Purnell mentioned there is a meeting for the Convention of States Group on Saturday, November 25, 2023 at Watermarke Church at 10:00 am. Their website is <https://conventionofstates.com/>

Ms. Cleeton presented about the PA Library Association. She recognized Denise Sticha, Executive Director of the Centre County Historical Museum and Library system for her receiving the PA Library Association’s Distinguished Services Award. She also raised a concern about a mature tree that appeared to be healthy on the Borough property at the Reservoir Building; she asked if there could have been an option, other than removal, of this tree. Stewart said it was taken down because of complaints received in the office.

Tosti-Vasey reminded the public about the election. She then mentioned that there was a planting of bushes and wildflowers on the Peninsula in Talleyrand Park to help reduce future erosion threats.; Clearwater Conservancy, the Centre County Recycling Center, Don Holderman, and Tosti-Vasey and her husband helped with these plantings. She also reported on her attendance at the Pennsylvania Municipal Leagues’ Sustainability Conference. She donated a rain barrel to the borough that she made at this conference. She also talked about sustainability and presented several handouts that could be useful for the borough’s work on various issues of sustainability and emergency management.

Mr. Brachbill made comments about the motion to table the EV charging stations. He encouraged council to follow Robert’s Rules more carefully during business meetings. He feels an apology to Council is in order for the misinformation that was presented.

Mr. Holderman offered kudos to the chief and Mayor for their participation with the community during Halloween. He is also very happy to be at the meeting tonight.

Bellefonte Borough Council Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2023

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	Phone Number
Dwight Townsend	133 1/2 W Logan	814 699 1240
Peter Seretino	212 E. High St.	814-769-1283
J. Basso		
Jerome Kinney	131 Elm St.	607-761-9986